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Letter dated 23 April 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit two letters addressed to me, dated 5 and 9 April 2012, respectively, from Mr. Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (see annex I), and Mr. Carlos Gomes Júnior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau (see annex II), on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. As you will recall, the Assistant Secretary-General, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, mentioned the receipt of these letters during his briefing to the Security Council on 13 April 2012.

I should be grateful if you would bring the aforementioned letters to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex I

Request of the Economic Community of West African States with regard to the presidential run-off election in Guinea-Bissau

You may be aware that political tension is increasingly mounting in Guinea-Bissau as the country approaches the second round of the presidential election scheduled to take place on 22 April 2012.

In the course of a joint fact-finding mission of ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations to Guinea-Bissau on 31 March 2012, the delegation, led by my humble self, uncovered a number of disturbing developments that could jeopardize the holding of the election and plunge the country back into another cycle of instability. Of major concern to ECOWAS are the following issues:

1. The call by the opposition, led by Mr. Koumba Yalá, the second-placed candidate in the first round of the election, to annul the results of the election, citing "massive fraud" and disenfranchisement of a large section of the potential electorate due to the failure to update the voters register. The opposition threatens to boycott the poll if this demand is not met.

2. Fear among a section of the political class of a possible military intervention and/or threat to their safety and security.

3. Mounting suspicion and tension between the Guinea-Bissau military and the Angolan Technical Military Assistance Mission (MISSANG), which is in the country under a bilateral agreement to support defence and security sector reform. General Antonio Injai, the Chief of Defence Staff of the Guinea-Bissau armed forces, has ordered the Mission to leave the country, accusing Angola of secretly building a military presence in the country, which constitutes, in his view, a breach of the bilateral agreement.

In view of the preceding, the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, at their Extraordinary Summit in Dakar on 2 April 2012, appointed H.E. Alpha Condé, President of Guinea, as Mediator in the looming crisis, and directed the ECOWAS Commission to consider the feasibility of deploying a military contingent in the run-up to the poll to protect candidates and institutions, to assist the Bissau security forces to ensure security for the electoral process and to commence work on the defence and security sector reform programme in the country.

This is to apprise you of the intentions of ECOWAS with regard to the impending election and to seek the support of the Security Council for the actions intended by ECOWAS. It is also to seek your kind opinion on the feasibility of fielding a joint ECOWAS/United Nations security mission for the purposes outlined above.

While awaiting your kind response, please accept the renewed assurances of the ECOWAS commitment to work closely with the United Nations in the interests of peace and security in West Africa.

(*Signed*) Kadré Désiré **Ouédraogo**
President of the Commission

Annex II

Letter dated 9 April 2012 from the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, I would like hereby, on behalf of the Government and in the light of the emergency situation which the country is undergoing, to inform you that Guinea-Bissau could come to face a new cycle of internal political instability, owing to the non-acceptance of the electoral results by five of the candidates who participated in the early presidential elections held on 18 March.

In a show of clear provocation, those persons are seeking to impede the holding of the second round of the presidential polls, which, should that happen, will endanger the democratic gains made to date by the State and the people of Guinea-Bissau.

Following a period of peace and social calm obtained during recent years through countless sacrifices made by the people of Guinea-Bissau, it is not acceptable that a group of individuals, motivated by personal and narrow-minded interests devoid of any politically justifiable or legal bases, should resort to creating conditions for the return of instability in our country.

With regard to the presidential polls, the entire international community which observed the electoral process adjudged it as just, free and transparent.

The National Electoral Commission and the Supreme Court, charged with respective jurisdictions, at the internal level, to deal with and examine legal challenges to the electoral process and to make pronouncements on the validity of the polls, have already publicized their decisions in favour of confirming the results that were announced and which called for a second round presidential run-off between candidates Carlos Gomes Júnior and Koumba Yalá.

Apart from representing a total disrespect for the institutions of the Republic, the behaviour of those who seek to call into question the above-mentioned results and consequently compromise the holding of the second round of the presidential elections could be seen as a manoeuvre intended to influence, negatively, the military who, at any moment, could unleash an uncontrollable situation that would have negative consequences for peace and security not only in Guinea-Bissau but also in the countries of the subregion.

In this connection, with a view to containing this situation which is threatening the peace and security of Guinea-Bissau, with possible subregional consequences, I would like to hereby request that the Security Council, within its powers enshrined under Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, in its capacity as the entity charged with the maintenance of international peace and security, analyse at an extraordinary meeting the internal situation of Guinea-Bissau resulting from the non-acceptance of democratic, free, just and transparent elections; and debate the dispatch of a peacekeeping force to Guinea-Bissau, the latter to be charged with extensive powers aimed at the maintenance of political stability in the country and at defence of the democratic gains which the people of Guinea-Bissau obtained at great sacrifice and desire to preserve for the economic, social and cultural development of the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall that Guinea-Bissau and the Republic of Angola entered into a bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in Defence and Security, which saw the establishment of MISSANG (Angolan Technical Military Assistance Mission) which, apart from supporting the ongoing reforms, constitutes a factor assisting with political and military stabilization in the country.

Further, I would like to inform you that, owing to the internal reaction of the military, the Republic of Angola announced its intention to end the cooperation agreement and, consequently, to effect the withdrawal of its troops from our country, which will put at risk the already grave situation which Guinea-Bissau is facing, and on account of which we are seeking recourse to the Security Council to request the taking of necessary measures aimed at guaranteeing the maintenance of peace and security in our country and in our subregion.

To conclude, I would like to further inform you that the Republic of Angola, and, eventually Brazil and Ghana, stand ready to form part of such a peacekeeping force, which could also integrate components from other countries in ECOWAS and other regions, once the deployment of such a force is approved by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter and the objectives of the United Nations Organization.

(*Signed*) Carlos **Gomes** Júnior